









THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA  
MFA FINAL VISUAL PRESENTATION

by

AMY LOEWAN

A THESIS

SUBMITTED TO THE FACULTY OF GRADUATE STUDIES AND RESEARCH  
IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE OF  
MASTER OF FINE ARTS


IN

PAINTING

DEPARTMENT OF ART AND DESIGN

EDMONTON, ALBERTA

SPRING 1995



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**THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA**  
**FACULTY OF GRADUATE STUDIES AND RESEARCH**

The undersigned certify that they have read, and recommend to the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research, for acceptance, a thesis entitled:

Final Visual Presentation

submitted by AMY LOEWAN in partial fulfilment  
of the requirements for the degree of Master of Fine Art.



**The University of Alberta**

**RELEASE FORM**

NAME OF AUTHOR AMY LOEWAN TITLE OF  
THESIS FINAL VISUAL PRESENTATION DEGREE FOR  
WHICH THESIS WAS GRANTED MASTER OF FINE ARTS YEAR  
THIS DEGREE WAS GRANTED 1994

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**DEPARTMENT OF ART AND DESIGN**

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**UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA**

I hereby release the following works for incorporation into the University Collections,  
University of Alberta, as part of the Master of Fine Arts Thesis Collection:

TITLE	DATE	MEDIUM	SIZE
Nature Speaks #6	1994	Acrylic, Chinese Ink Rice paper, watercolor paper, collage	11" x 8"





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# *Living Water*

## *Works on paper*

Amy Luke - Loewan

**Gallery Hours:**

Tuesday to Saturday 10 am - 5 pm

Sunday 2 pm - 5 pm

Closed on Monday and Statutory Holidays

1 - 1 Fine Arts Building

University of Alberta

112 Street and 89 Avenue

Edmonton, Canada

T6G 2C9

(403) 492 - 2081

January 5 - 15, 1995

*Opening reception:*

Tuesday January 10

7pm to 10 pm

This exhibition is the final visual presentation in partial  
fulfillment for the degree of Master of Fine Arts in painting

Design by: Cindy Sun

ALBERTA  
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University of Alberta  
gal



## ARTIST'S STATEMENT

The objective of my research is to create paintings which are syntheses of Western and Eastern traditions. My painting is about appropriation. I take certain aspects of Western art, namely formalism, expressionism and minimalism with their primary concern on the manipulation of art materials and formal elements, and integrate them with the essence of traditional Chinese art which is the spiritual execution of calligraphic brush marks with black ink on rice paper. The creative process involves overlapping images and putting together fragments from each tradition. The medium is water-based paints (acrylic, ink, watercolor and gouache) on paper.

Many of my images are derived from the Canadian wilderness. The grandeur and timeless feeling of the West Coast old growth forest have inspired me to create the "Rain Forest" triptych located in the first gallery. The big trees are used as a metaphor to express the universal life energy. Small pieces in the show are derivatives of the same theme.

The China Room is a result of my recent visit to Beijing in the summer of 1994. "Jade" is a precious stone which serves ceremonially to mediate between nature and human beings.

"Yin/Yang, Union of the Opposites", in the upstairs gallery, is my attempt to express aspects of Eastern Taoist philosophy. The Yin/Yang principle represents the constant change and motion of the universe and thus of human experience. Paintings are exhibited in pairs. They can be read formally as tonal acrylic washes on large sheets of watercolor paper. Furthermore, they are meant to convey Eastern aesthetics of harmony, balance and simplicity.

Special thanks to Professor Robert Sinclair, my advisor, for his gentle and skillful guidance which lead me on the path of continuous discovery; Professor Jetske Sybesma, art historian, for her insightful teaching which took me back to my artistic roots of Chinese heritage; and Reiner Loewan, my husband, for his ceaseless encouragement and support, as well as constructing all the frames specifically for the presentation of this show.

Amy Loewan  
January 1995





List of Slides

<u>No.</u>	<u>Title and Medium</u>	<u>Size (width x ht)</u>
1	Genesis *c	15" x 20"
2	Freedom of the spirit *c	13" x 20"
3	Nature Whispers, Mountain ash leaves on paper	11" x 11"
4	Nature Whispers, Willow leaves on paper	11" x 11"
5	Nature Speaks #1 *c	11" x 19"
6	Nature Speaks #2 *c	9" x 12"
7	Nature Speaks #3 *c	13" x 21"
8	Nature Speaks #4 *c	9" x 11"
9	Nature Speaks #5 *c	9" x 12"
10	Nature Speaks #6 *c	11" x 18"
11	Nature Speaks #7 *c	9" x 11"
12	Rain Forest #1 *cw Chinese Characters meaning: (木木) forest (流水) living water (生命之源) river of life	4 ft x 6 ft
13	Rain Forest #2 *a	4 ft x 6 ft
14	Rain Forest #3 *a	4 ft x 6 ft
15	Tree/Living Stream *c	4 ft x 6 ft
16	Tree Interior #1 *a	12" x 14"
17	Tree Interior #2 *a	11" x 10"
18	Tree Interior #3 *a	18" x 14"
19	Tree Interior #4 *a	11" x 11"
20	Yin/Yang, Union of the Opposites Full installation view	
21	Yin/Yang, individual pair *a	4 ft x 6 ft
22	Yin/Yang, individual pair *a	4 ft x 6 ft
23	Yin/Yang, individual pair *a	4 ft x 6 ft
24	Yin/Yang, individual pair *a	4 ft x 6 ft
25	Spectrum Blue #1 *a	4 ft x 6 ft
26	Spectrum Blue #2 *a	4 ft x 6 ft
27	Documenting the process Photography assisted by Reiner Loewan and Sophie Fernandez	
28	Living Water Installation *ab	20 ft x 8 ft
29	The China Room Palace Museum, Beijing *a	4 ft x 6 ft
30	Fabric and Paper *a	4 ft x 16 ft
31	Jade *a	46" x 38"
32	Kindness *c	46" x 38"

\*a acrylic on watercolour paper

\*ab acrylic on watercolour paper and on board

\*c acrylic, Chinese ink, rice paper, watercolour paper..collage

\*cw acrylic, Chinese ink, rice paper, watercolour paper, wax



